

hroug 23  
annual conference

{TRIOLOGY

# Transfer bad PL/SQL into good

ROVINJ  
18.10.2023



## Maik Becker

✉ maik.becker@triology.de

✂ @beckerman\_maik

👤 Business Unit Manager @TRIOLOGY

💡 > 20 years of experience in software development

🗄 > 10 years of experience with Oracle DB and APEX

♠️ Oracle ACE Associate



## Alexandra Welzel

✉ alexandra.welzel@triology.de

✂ @alexandrawelzel

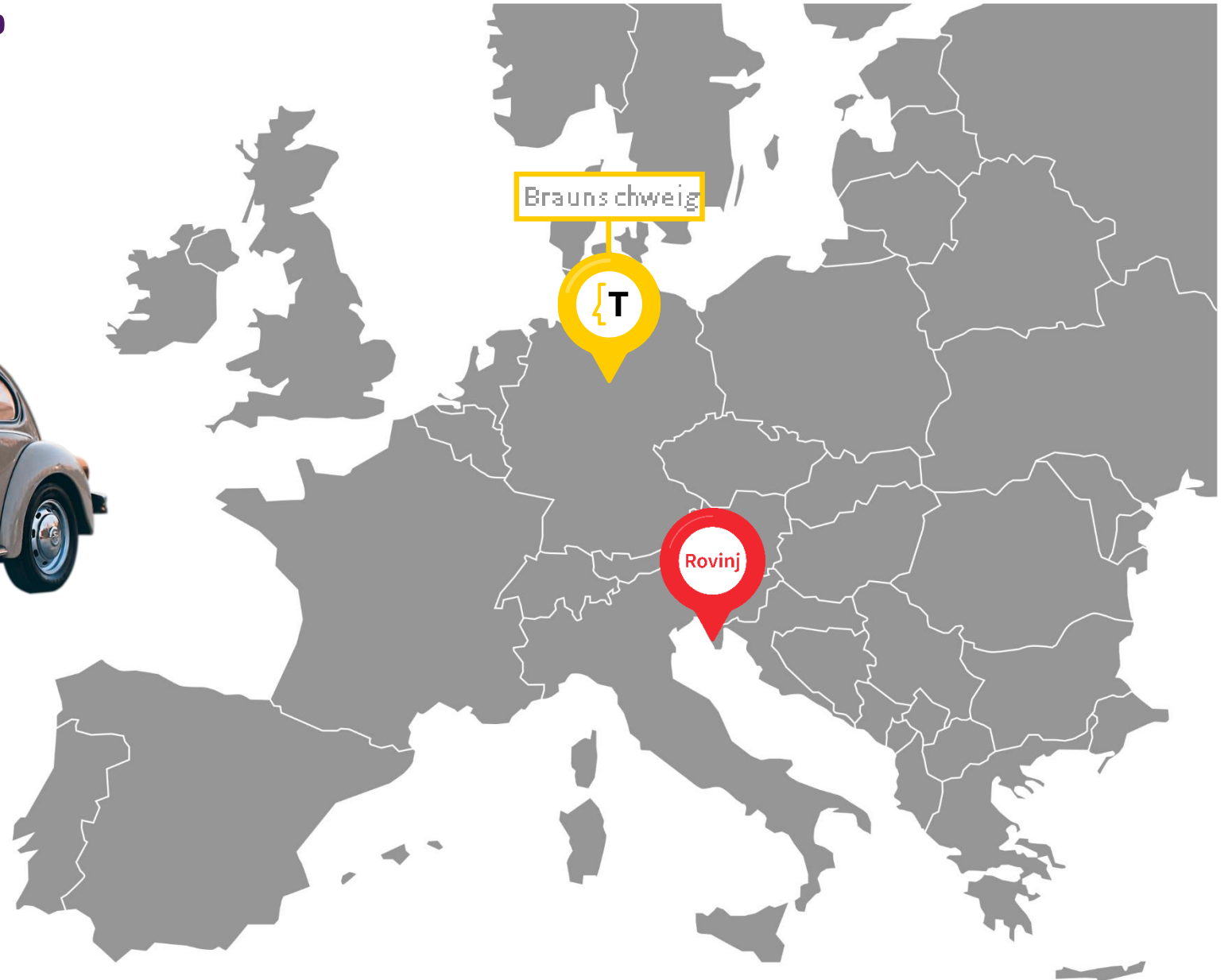
👤 Data Consultant @TRIOLOGY

👁️ focused on Oracle DB and Oracle APEX

🗄 6 years of experience in database development

❤️ Love Oracle ā'pěks

# Where are we from?



# Safety instructions

Most examples are based on actual source code we found somewhere over the years



Names and authors have been erased, where we used unmodified examples

Some examples may be made up but are based on real program code, we found elsewhere



If you identify your own code, keep cool, stay calm

Some examples have been strongly modified



We do not want to embarrass anybody - It is all about learning!





**Unused or unnecessary code**



# Unused or unnecessary code

#1 – various useless lines

```
PROCEDURE GetFBTDocuments (  
    infinalbtid IN NUMBER,  
    outresult OUT ref_cursor_type,  
    outresultmsg OUT VARCHAR2)  
IS  
    step NUMBER;  
BEGIN  
    step := 1;  
    OPEN outresult FOR  
    SELECT (...) FROM (...) WHERE (...) = infinalbtid;  
    -- exception -----  
EXCEPTION  
WHEN OTHERS THEN  
    BEGIN  
        ROLLBACK;  
        outresultmsg := SUBSTR (SQLERRM, 1, 450) || '! SQLCode: ' || SQLCODE;  
        DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line (outresultmsg);  
    END;  
END GetFBTDocuments;
```

better

```
PROCEDURE GetFBTDocuments (  
    infinalbtid IN NUMBER,  
    outresult OUT ref_cursor_type,  
    outresultmsg OUT VARCHAR2)  
IS  
BEGIN  
    OPEN outresult FOR  
    SELECT (...) FROM (...) WHERE (...) = infinalbtid;  
EXCEPTION  
WHEN OTHERS THEN  
    ROLLBACK;  
    outresultmsg := SUBSTR (SQLERRM, 1, 450) || '! SQLCode: ' || SQLCODE;  
    -- consider logging here instead of console output!  
    -- also SQLERRM will likely give incomplete error message  
END GetFBTDocuments;
```

# Unused or unnecessary code

#2 – unused variables in declaration section

```
PROCEDURE UpdateStufe1 (inFinalBTID IN NUMBER, inEvn IN VARCHAR2, inType IN VARCHAR2,  
inText IN VARCHAR2, inUserId IN VARCHAR2, inUserName IN VARCHAR2, outresult OUT NUMBER, outresultmsg OUT VARCHAR2)
```

```
IS
```

```
step      NUMBER;  
count    NUMBER;  
cnt2     NUMBER;  
firstFBTID NUMBER;  
isOpen   BOOLEAN;
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
outresult := 0;  
outresultmsg := '';
```

```
step := 1;
```

```
UPDATE dactrl.dco_bt_status s SET (...) WHERE s.id = inFinalBTID AND s.fbt_status != 1;
```

```
IF (SQL%ROWCOUNT <> 1) THEN
```

```
  (...)
```

```
END IF;
```

```
step := 2;
```

```
DCO_COM.SaveComment (inEvn, inType, inText, inUserId, inUserName, outresult, outresultmsg);
```

```
IF (outresult < 0) THEN
```

```
  (...)
```

```
END IF;
```

```
outresult := step;
```

```
END UpdateStufe1;
```

# Unused or unnecessary code

#3 – unreachable code

```
PROCEDURE ForwardFBTCheck
  (inDealerID      IN  VARCHAR2
  ,inEVN           IN  VARCHAR2
  ,inFBTID         IN  NUMBER
  ,outIsForwardable OUT NUMBER)
is
begin
  insert into dco_bt (FBTID, EVN, DealerID)
  values (inFBTID, inEVN, inDealerID);

  IF (SQL%ROWCOUNT != 1) THEN

    -- do some stuff here

    outIsForwardable := -1;
  END IF;

  -- do other stuff here

  outIsForwardable := 1;

end ForwardFBTCheck;
```

better

```
PROCEDURE ForwardFBTCheck
  (inDealerID      IN  VARCHAR2
  ,inEVN           IN  VARCHAR2
  ,inFBTID         IN  NUMBER
  ,outIsForwardable OUT NUMBER)
is
begin
  insert into dco_bt (FBTID, EVN, DealerID)
  values (inFBTID, inEVN, inDealerID);

  outIsForwardable := 1;

  exception
  when others then
    outIsForwardable := -1;
  end;

  -- do other stuff here

end ForwardFBTCheck;
```



# Unused or unnecessary code

#4 – unreachable code (exception)

```
procedure UpdateFinalBtStatusAfterFIT
(infinalbtid      IN    NUMBER
,inForwardedBy   IN    VARCHAR2
,inForwardedTo   IN    VARCHAR2
,outresult       OUT   NUMBER
,outresultmsg    OUT   VARCHAR2)
is
begin
    outresultmsg := '';

    update dco_bt
    set ForwardedBy = inForwardedBy, ForwardedTo = inForwardedTo
    where finalbtid = infinalbtid;

    outresult := 0;
exception
when no_data_found then
    outresult := -1;
    outresultmsg := substr(SQLCODE || ': ' || SQLERRM, 1, 450);

end UpdateFinalBtStatusAfterFIT;
```

better

```
procedure UpdateFinalBtStatusAfterFIT
(infinalbtid      IN    NUMBER
,inForwardedBy   IN    VARCHAR2
,inForwardedTo   IN    VARCHAR2
,outresult       OUT   NUMBER
,outresultmsg    OUT   VARCHAR2)
is
begin
    outresultmsg := '';

    update dco_bt
    set ForwardedBy = inForwardedBy, ForwardedTo = inForwardedTo
    where finalbtid = infinalbtid;

    if SQL%ROWCOUNT = 1 then
        outresult := 0;
    else
        outresult := -1;
        outresultmsg := 'something went wrong while updating a single row!';
    end if;

end UpdateFinalBtStatusAfterFIT;
```

# Unused or unnecessary code

#5 – initialization of variables with null

```
function convert_txt_to_html (in_txt_message in varchar2)
    return varchar2
is
    l_html_message varchar2(32767) default in_txt_message;
    l_temp_url varchar2(32767) := null;
    l_length number default null;
begin
    (...)
    return l_html_message;
end convert_txt_to_html;
```

```
4 declare
5     l_string varchar2(100 char);
6     l_number number;
7     l_date date;
8 begin
9     if l_string is null then
10        dbms_output.put_line('string is null');
11    end if;
12    if l_number is null then
13        dbms_output.put_line('number is null');
14    end if;
15    if l_date is null then
16        dbms_output.put_line('date is null');
17    end if;
18 end;
19 /
--
```

```
string is null
number is null
date is null
```

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

# Unused or unnecessary code

#6 – count(\*) before loop

```
procedure map_organisations(in_costcenter in number)
is
    l_count number;
begin
    select count(*)
    into l_count
    from organisations
    where coc_id = in_costcenter;

    if l_count > 0 then
        for rec in (select * from organisations where coc_id = in_costcenter)
        loop
            -- do_something here

        end loop;
    end if;
end map_organisations;
```

better

```
procedure map_organisations(in_costcenter in number)
is
begin
    for rec in (select * from organisations where coc_id = in_costcenter)
    loop
        -- do_something here

    end loop;
end map_organisations;
```

# Unused or unnecessary code

#7 – select from dual for almost everything

```
FUNCTION next_store_seq
  RETURN NUMBER
IS
  next_id  NUMBER;
BEGIN
  SELECT  TRUNC (DBMS_RANDOM.VALUE (1000, 9999))
          * bit_shift + cbo_datastore_seq.NEXTVAL
  INTO next_id
  FROM DUAL;

  RETURN next_id;
END next_store_seq;
```

better

```
FUNCTION next_store_seq
  RETURN NUMBER
IS
BEGIN
  RETURN TRUNC (DBMS_RANDOM.VALUE (1000, 9999))
          * bit_shift + cbo_datastore_seq.NEXTVAL;
END next_store_seq;
```

# Unused or unnecessary code

#7 – select from dual for almost everything

```
declare
  l_date date;
  l_timestamp timestamp;
  l_number number;
  l_string varchar2(100 char);
begin
  select sysdate into l_date from dual;
  select add_months(sysdate, 12) into l_date from dual;
  select systimestamp into l_timestamp from dual;

  select seq.nextval into l_number from dual;
  select round(1/3, 2) into l_number from dual;
  select DBMS_RANDOM.VALUE (1000, 9999) into l_number from dual;
  select length('my string') into l_number from dual;

  select substr('my string', 4, 6) into l_string from dual;
  select rtrim('my string!!!!', '!') into l_string from dual;
  select replace('my string!', '!', '?') into l_string from dual;

  -- and so on ...

end;
```

better

```
declare
  l_date date;
  l_timestamp timestamp;
  l_number number;
  l_string varchar2(100 char);
begin
  l_date := sysdate;
  l_date := add_months(sysdate, 12);
  l_timestamp := systimestamp;

  l_number := seq.nextval;
  l_number := round(1/3, 2);
  l_number := DBMS_RANDOM.VALUE (1000, 9999);
  l_number := length('my string');

  l_string := substr('my string', 4, 6);
  l_string := rtrim('my string!!!!', '!');
  l_string := replace('my string!', '!', '?');

  -- and so on ...

end;
```



# Unused or unnecessary code



carefully think about, what  
you really need and what you  
don't need



carefully think about, what  
can really happen and what  
will not be possible



eliminate every...  
...variable you do not use  
...piece of code that has no effect  
...piece of code that will never execute



avoid unnecessary *select*  
... *from dual*



do not comment, what  
can be seen obviously



do not write errors to  
the console output



keep your code clean!



refactor your code!



# Exception Handling



# Exception Handling

#1 – ignore every exception

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN others THEN -- caution handles all exceptions
    RETURN NULL;
END get_valid_list;
```

better

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN others THEN
    -- at least logging!
    logger.log_error('unknown error');
    RETURN NULL;
END get_valid_list;
```

# Exception Handling

#1 – ignore every exception

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN others THEN -- caution handles all exceptions
RETURN NULL;
END get_valid_list;
```

much better

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN no_data_found THEN
    -- nothing was found
RETURN NULL;

WHEN others THEN
    logger.log_error('unknown error');
RETURN NULL;

END get_valid_list;
```

# Exception Handling

#1 – ignore every exception

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN others THEN -- caution handles all exceptions
    RETURN NULL;
END get_valid_list;
```

also ok (sometimes)

```
FUNCTION get_valid_list(in_list_key VARCHAR2
,in_valid_date DATE DEFAULT NULL
,in_client VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Mandant_DE'
,in_country VARCHAR2 DEFAULT 'Germany')
RETURN NUMBER
IS
    valid_list isa_paramlist.id%TYPE;
    valid_date DATE;
    client_id NUMBER;
BEGIN
    IF in_valid_date IS NOT NULL THEN
        valid_date := in_valid_date;
    ELSE
        valid_date := SYSDATE;
    END IF;

    SELECT A.id INTO client_id FROM (...) WHERE (...);
    SELECT id INTO valid_list FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    RETURN valid_list;
exception
WHEN others THEN
    -- it is ok, to ignore all errors here, because ...
    RETURN NULL;
END get_valid_list;
```



# Exception Handling

#2 – ignore every exception



Just writing something to the output buffer  
is nothing but ignoring the exception!  
Who will ever read it?



```
PROCEDURE DataProtectionAction( ... )
AS
  (...)
BEGIN
  IF in_advisorid IS NOT NULL THEN
    BEGIN
      SELECT (...) INTO (...) FROM (...) WHERE (...);
      dbms_output.put_line('l_advisorID='||l_advisorID);
    EXCEPTION
    WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN
      BEGIN
        SELECT (...) INTO (...) FROM (...) WHERE (...);
      EXCEPTION
      WHEN OTHERS THEN
        dbms_output.put_line('exception l_advisorID='||l_advisorID);
      END;
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
      NULL;
    END;
  END IF;

  IF in_object_type = 2 THEN
    (...)
    WHILE in_obj_ids.existsNode('/fkey[ ' || l_count || ' ]') = 1 LOOP
      (...)
      BEGIN
        (...)
      EXCEPTION
      WHEN OTHERS THEN
        dbms_output.put_line( 'Exception bei ermitteln der person id ' || l_fkey || ' ' || sqlerrm );
      END;
    END LOOP;
  ELSE
    dbms_output.put_line( 'only for persons' );
  END IF;
END DataProtectionAction ;
```

# Exception Handling

#3 – just re-raise



Worse than doing nothing!  
Original line number of exception will get lost.  
No value at all.

```
PROCEDURE my_proc(in_id number)
IS
BEGIN
    -- do stuff
EXCEPTION
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
        RAISE;
END my_proc;
```

better

```
PROCEDURE my_proc(in_id number)
IS
BEGIN
    -- do stuff
EXCEPTION
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
        logger.log_error('unknown error ... ');
        RAISE;
END my_proc;
```

# Exception Handling

#3 – block application because of logging error

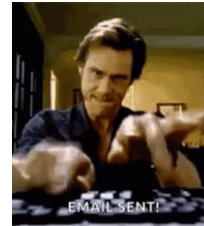
```
procedure log_message(in_text in varchar2)
is
  pragma autonomous_transaction;
begin
  insert
  into its_process_log(
    id, created_date, message, parallel_deg, cln_id)
  values(
    to_number(to_char(systimestamp,'YYYYMMDDHH24MISSFF6'))
    , sysdate
    , '[' || trim(to_char(g_parallel)) || ']' || in_text
    , g_parallel
    , g_cln_id);
  commit;
exception when others
then
  raise_application_error(-20999, 'Cannot write log message. ' || sqlerrm);
end log_message;
```



Caller most likely will not expect a logging procedure returning with an exception



Do something else ... But do not block the entire application, just because your logging does not work!



send an email to the admin



turn on warning lights



let it rain



use a monitoring to check your logging

# Exception Handling

#4 – SQLERRM and SQLCODE

```
FUNCTION GetFBTDocumentName(infinalbtid IN NUMBER)
RETURN VARCHAR2
IS
    l_doc_name varchar2(100 char);
    l_message varchar2(4000 char);
BEGIN

    SELECT name into l_doc_name
    FROM dco_documents
    WHERE id = infinalbtid;
    return l_doc_name;

EXCEPTION
WHEN OTHERS THEN

    l_message := SUBSTR(SQLERRM, 1, 450) || '. SQLCode: ' || SQLCODE;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line(l_message);

    return null;
END GetFBTDocumentName;
```



ORA-01403: no data found. SQLCode: 100

better

```
FUNCTION GetFBTDocumentName(infinalbtid IN NUMBER)
RETURN VARCHAR2
IS
    l_doc_name varchar2(100 char);
    l_message varchar2(4000 char);
BEGIN

    SELECT name into l_doc_name
    FROM dco_documents
    WHERE id = infinalbtid;
    return l_doc_name;

EXCEPTION
WHEN OTHERS THEN
    l_message :=
        dbms_utility.FORMAT_ERROR_STACK
        || dbms_utility.FORMAT_ERROR_BACKTRACE;

    logger.log_error(l_message);
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line(l_message);

    return null;
END GetFBTDocumentName;
```



ORA-01403: no data found  
ORA-06512: at "CRMOWN.GETFBTDOCUMENTNAME", line 7

# Exception Handling



never ignore all exceptions with  
*when others then null*



try to use named exceptions and  
handle most likely exceptions  
separately from unknown errors



for example *no\_data\_found*,  
which often is more a data  
condition than an error

```
/* ... */
```

if really using *when others then null*:  
write a comment, why everything must be ignored here!



do not just write exceptions to  
the console, use logging instead



never re-raise without logging!



never block your application  
because of erroneous logging!



# Code Control Structure



# Code Control Structure

#1 – use of GOTO

```
PROCEDURE SaveDigitalOrPaperBT(inevn varchar2, isdigital number, outResult out number)
IS
    step number;
BEGIN
    step := 1;
    IF (inevn IS NULL OR isdigital < 0 OR isdigital > 1) THEN
        step := -step;
        GOTO ende;
    END IF;

    step := 2;
    (...)

    step := 3;
    UPDATE dco_bt SET isDigital = isdigital WHERE evn = inevn;
    IF (SQL%ROWCOUNT = 0) THEN
        step := -step;
        GOTO step6;
    END IF;

    -- step 4, 5

    <<step6>>
    IF (isdigital = 1) THEN
        step := 6;
        (...)
    END IF;

    -- step 7, 8, 9

    <<ende>>
    outresult := step;
END SaveDigitalOrPaperBT;
```

better

```
PROCEDURE SaveDigitalOrPaperBT(inevn varchar2, isdigital number, outResult out number)
IS
    step number;
BEGIN
    step := 1;
    IF (inevn IS NULL OR isdigital < 0 OR isdigital > 1) THEN
        step := -step;

    ELSE
        step := 2;
        (...)

        step := 3;
        UPDATE dco_bt SET isDigital = isdigital WHERE evn = inevn;
        IF (SQL%ROWCOUNT = 0) THEN
            step := -step;

    ELSE
        -- step 4, 5

    END IF;

    IF (isdigital = 1) THEN
        step := 6;
        (...)
    END IF;

    -- step 7, 8, 9
    END IF;

    outresult := step;
END SaveDigitalOrPaperBT;
```

# Code Control Structure

#2 – break a loop with return

```
function has_final_status(in_group in ecm_activities.group_no%type)  
  return boolean  
is  
begin  
  for rec in (select * from ecm_activities where group_no = in_group)  
  loop  
    if rec.status in (3, 7, 9)  
    then  
      return true;  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
  
  return false;  
  
end has_final_status;
```

good

```
function has_final_status(in_group in ecm_activities.group_no%type)  
  return boolean  
is  
  l_return boolean := false;  
begin  
  for rec in (select * from ecm_activities where group_no = in_group)  
  loop  
    if rec.status in (3, 7, 9)  
    then  
      l_return := true;  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
  
  return l_return;  
  
end has_final_status;
```

# Code Control Structure

#2 – break a loop with return

```
function has_final_status(in_group in ecm_activities.group_no%type)  
  return boolean  
is  
begin  
  for rec in (select * from ecm_activities where group_no = in_group)  
  loop  
    if rec.status in (3, 7, 9)  
    then  
      return true;  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
  
  return false;  
  
end has_final_status;
```

better

```
function has_final_status(in_group in ecm_activities.group_no%type)  
  return boolean  
is  
  l_return boolean := false;  
  l_count number;  
begin  
  select count(*) into l_count  
  from ecm_activities  
  where group_no = in_group and status in (3, 7, 9);  
  
  if l_count > 0 then l_return := true;  
  else l_return := false;  
  end if;  
  
  return l_return;  
  
end has_final_status;
```

# Code Control Structure



do not use *GOTO*!  
use *if ... then ... elsif ... else ...*  
use *for* and/or *while* loops



do not break loops with *return*,  
only have one *return* in  
functions



write a clear and  
understandable program  
structure



think about maintainability,  
readability, testability

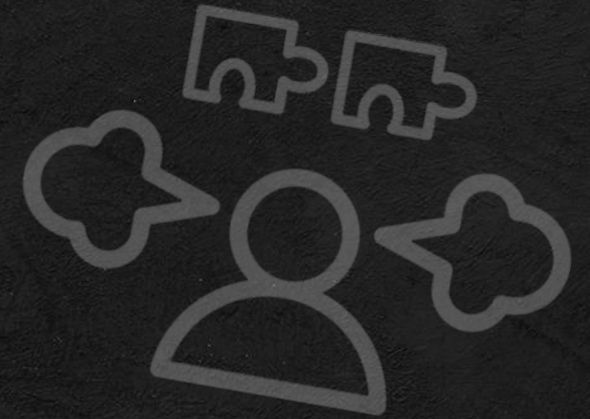


refactor your code!





## General Programming Issues



# General Programming Issues

#1 – no prefix for input parameters

```
procedure set_stock(  
    part_name in ugl_parts.part_name%type,  
    stock     in ugl_parts.stock%type)  
is  
begin  
    update ugl_parts  
    set stock = stock  
    where part_name = part_name;  
end set_stock;
```

# General Programming Issues

#1 – no prefix for input parameters

```
procedure set_stock(  
    part_name in ugl_parts.part_name%type,  
    stock in ugl_parts.stock%type)  
is  
begin  
    update ugl_parts  
    set :new = :old  
    where 1 = 1 ;  
end set_stock;
```

better

```
procedure set_stock(  
    in_part_name in ugl_parts.part_name%type,  
    in_stock in ugl_parts.stock%type)  
is  
begin  
    update ugl_parts  
    set stock = in_stock  
    where part_name = in_part_name;  
end set_stock;
```

# General Programming Issues

#1 – no prefix for input parameters

```
procedure set_stock(  
  part_name  in ugl_parts.part_name%type,  
  stock      in ugl_parts.stock%type)  
is  
begin  
  update ugl_parts  
  set stock = set_stock.stock  
  where part_name = set_stock.part_name;  
end set_stock;
```

preferred

```
procedure set_stock(  
  in_part_name  in ugl_parts.part_name%type,  
  in_stock      in ugl_parts.stock%type)  
is  
begin  
  update ugl_parts  
  set stock = in_stock  
  where part_name = in_part_name;  
end set_stock;
```

# General Programming Issues

#2 – call by position vs. call by name

```
procedure set_customer(  
    in_id in number  
    ,in_first_name in varchar2  
    ,in_last_name in varchar2  
    ,in_first_order in date  
    ,in_date_of_birth in date)  
is  
begin  
    insert into sro_customer (id, first_name, last_name, first_order_date, date_of_birth)  
    values (in_id, in_first_name, in_last_name, in_first_order, in_date_of_birth);  
end set_customer;
```

---

Call by position

```
begin  
    set_customer(1, 'Donald', 'Duck', sysdate, to_date('1934-06-09', 'yyyy-mm-dd'));  
end;
```



ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	DATE_OF_BIRTH	FIRST_ORDER_DATE
1	Donald	Duck	09.06.34 00:00:00	01.05.22 12:03:36

# General Programming Issues

#2 – call by position vs. call by name

```
procedure set_customer(  
    in_id in number  
    ,in_first_name in varchar2  
    ,in_last_name in varchar2  
    ,in_date_of_birth in date  
    ,in_first_order in date  
    ,in_marketing_accepted in number default null)  
is  
begin  
    insert into sro_customer (id, first_name, last_name, first_order_date,  
                             date_of_birth, marketing_accepted)  
    values (in_id, in_first_name, in_last_name, in_first_order,  
           in_date_of_birth, in_marketing_accepted);  
end set_customer;
```

Call by position

```
begin  
    set_customer(1, 'Donald', 'Duck', sysdate, to_date('1934-06-09', 'yyyy-mm-dd'));  
end;
```



ID	FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	DATE_OF_BIRTH	FIRST_ORDER_DATE	MARKETING_ACCEPTED
1	Donald	Duck	01.05.22 12:05:19	09.06.34 00:00:00	0

better: call by name

```
begin  
    set_customer(  
        in_id => 1,  
        in_first_name => 'Donald',  
        in_last_name => 'Duck',  
        in_first_order => sysdate,  
        in_date_of_birth => to_date('1934-06-09', 'yyyy-mm-dd'));  
end;
```

# General Programming Issues

## #3 – transaction isolation

```
declare
  l_apr_id          dca_app_responses.id%type;
  l_apo_id          dca_app_objects.id%type;
  l_app_save_objects dca_applications.save_objects%type;
begin
  -- process some stuff here

  save_app_response(
    out_id          => l_apr_id,
    in_run_id       => in_run_id,
    in_app_id       => in_app_id,
    in_req_id       => in_req_id,
    in_request_action => in_request_action,
    in_response_status => in_response_status,
    in_response_message => in_response_message,
    in_response_date => in_response_date);

  -- do some kind of long and complex process ...

  -- and then ...

  if l_app_save_objects = 1 then
    save_app_objects(
      out_id      => l_apo_id,
      in_run_id   => in_run_id,
      in_app_id   => in_app_id,
      in_obj_id   => in_obj_id,
      in_apr_id   => l_apr_id);
  end if;
end;
```

```
procedure save_app_response(
  out_id out dca_app_responses.id%type,
  in_run_id in dca_app_responses.run_id%type,
  in_app_id in dca_app_responses.app_id%type,
  in_req_id in dca_app_responses.req_id%type,
  in_request_action in dca_app_responses.request_action%type,
  in_response_status in dca_app_responses.response_status%type,
  in_response_message in dca_app_responses.response_message%type,
  in_response_date in dca_app_responses.response_date%type)
is
begin

  insert into dca_app_responses ( ... )
  values ( ... )
  returning id into out_id;

end save_app_response;
```



# General Programming Issues

## #3 – transaction isolation

```
declare
  l_apr_id          dca_app_responses.id%type;
  l_apo_id          dca_app_objects.id%type;
  l_app_save_objects dca_applications.save_objects%type;
begin
  -- process some stuff here

  save_app_response(
    out_id          => l_apr_id,
    in_run_id       => in_run_id,
    in_app_id       => in_app_id,
    in_req_id       => in_req_id,
    in_request_action => in_request_action,
    in_response_status => in_response_status,
    in_response_message => in_response_message,
    in_response_date => in_response_date);

  -- do some kind of long and complex process ...

  -- and then ...

  if l_app_save_objects = 1 then
    save_app_objects(
      out_id          => l_apo_id,
      in_run_id       => in_run_id,
      in_app_id       => in_app_id,
      in_obj_id       => in_obj_id,
      in_apr_id       => l_apr_id);
  end if;
end;
```

```
procedure save_app_objects(
  out_id out dca_app_objects.id%type,
  in_run_id in dca_app_objects.run_id%type,
  in_app_id in dca_app_objects.app_id%type,
  in_obj_id in dca_app_objects.obj_id%type,
  in_apr_id in dca_app_responses.id%type)
is
  PRAGMA AUTONOMOUS_TRANSACTION;
  l_last_request_action dca_app_objects.last_request_action%type;
  l_last_response_status dca_app_objects.last_response_status%type;
begin
  select request_action, response_status
  into l_last_request_action, l_last_response_status
  from dca_app_responses
  where id = in_apr_id;

  insert into dca_app_objects ( ... )
  values ( ... )
  returning id into out_id;

  commit;

end save_app_objects;
```

# General Programming Issues

## #3 – transaction isolation

```
declare
  l_apr_id          dca_app_responses.id%type;
  l_apo_id          dca_app_objects.id%type;
  l_app_save_objects dca_applications.save_objects%type;
begin
  -- process some stuff here

  save_app_response(
    out_id          => l_apr_id,
    in_run_id       => in_run_id,
    in_app_id       => in_app_id,
    in_req_id       => in_req_id,
    in_request_action => in_request_action,
    in_response_status => in_response_status,
    in_response_message => in_response_message,
    in_response_date  => in_response_date);

  -- do some kind of long and complex process ...

  -- and then ...

  if l_app_save_objects = 1 then
    save_app_objects(
      out_id      => l_apo_id,
      in_run_id   => in_run_id,
      in_app_id   => in_app_id,
      in_obj_id   => in_obj_id,
      in_apr_id   => l_apr_id);
  end if;
end;
```

```
procedure save_app_objects(
  out_id out dca_app_objects.id%type,
  in_run_id in dca_app_objects.run_id%type,
  in_app_id in dca_app_objects.app_id%type,
  in_obj_id in dca_app_objects.obj_id%type,
  in_apr_id in dca_app_responses.id%type)
is
  PRAGMA AUTONOMOUS_TRANSACTION;
  l_last_request_action dca_app_objects.last_request_action%type;
  l_last_response_status dca_app_objects.last_response_status%type;
begin
  select request_action, response_status
  into l_last_request_action, l_last_response_status
  from dca_app_responses
  where id = in_apr_id;

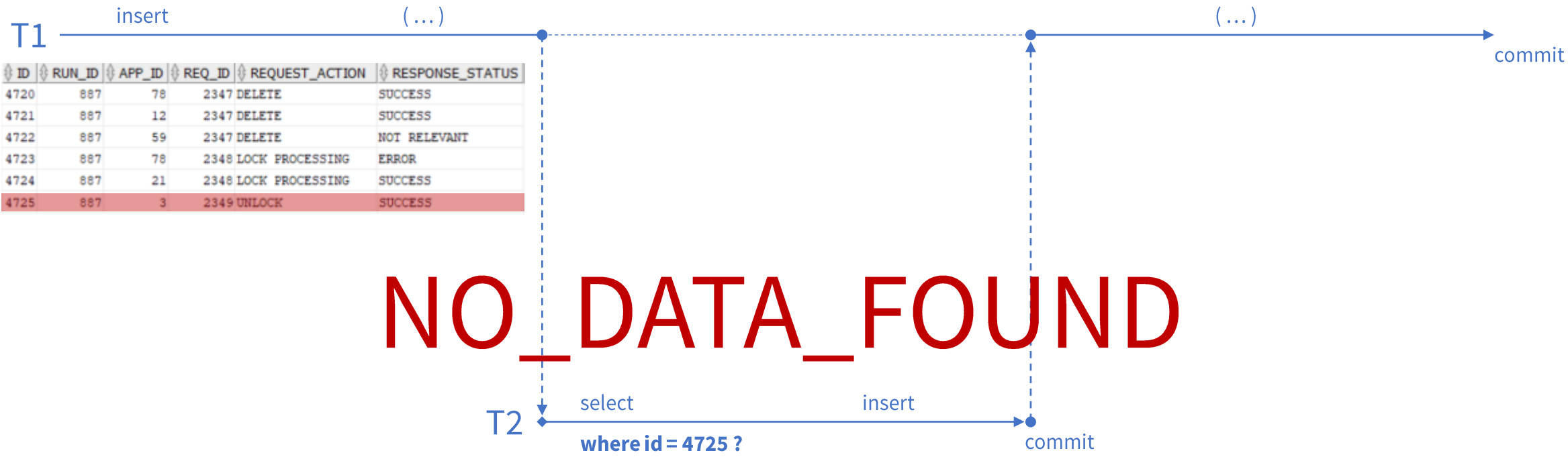
  insert into dca_app_objects ( ... )
  values ( ... )
  returning id into out_id;

  commit;

end save_app_objects;
```

# General Programming Issues

#3 – transaction isolation



ID	RUN_ID	APP_ID	REQ_ID	REQUEST_ACTION	RESPONSE_STATUS
4720	887	78	2347	DELETE	SUCCESS
4721	887	12	2347	DELETE	SUCCESS
4722	887	59	2347	DELETE	NOT RELEVANT
4723	887	78	2348	LOCK PROCESSING	ERROR
4724	887	21	2348	LOCK PROCESSING	SUCCESS
4725	887	3	2349	UNLOCK	SUCCESS

ID	RUN_ID	APP_ID	REQ_ID	REQUEST_ACTION	RESPONSE_STATUS
4720	887	78	2347	DELETE	SUCCESS
4721	887	12	2347	DELETE	SUCCESS
4722	887	59	2347	DELETE	NOT RELEVANT
4723	887	78	2348	LOCK PROCESSING	ERROR
4724	887	21	2348	LOCK PROCESSING	SUCCESS

# General Programming Issues

#3 – transaction isolation



Avoid using  
*PRAGMA AUTONOMOUS\_TRANSACTION*



There is (almost) no good reason  
to use isolated transactions  
Except: Logging!



Most other cases one can think about  
are probably due to bad design

## If there is a reason to use it anyway, be aware of:

- ⚠ Child transaction cannot see, what parent has done
- ⚠ Child transaction will not see data, manipulated by parent
- ⚠ Accessing resources in isolated transactions, which are held by the parent, will result into deadlock
- ⚠ In child transactions never access objects or data, which has been manipulated by the parent

# General Programming Issues

## **PREFIX**

always use prefixes for parameters to avoid conflicts (also prefix all other variables)



be careful with transaction isolation, there is likely no good reason to use it, except for logging



avoid call by position  
– use call by name



## Potential Performance Issues





# Potential Performance Issues

#1 – commit every row in a loop

```
procedure schedule_event(  
  in_event_id in eco_event.id%type,  
  in_schedule_time in eco_event.schedule_time%type)  
is  
begin  
  update eco_event  
  set schedule_time = in_schedule_time, scheduled = 1  
  where id = in_event_id;  
  
  for rec in (select * from eco_attendee where evt_id = in_event_id)  
  loop  
    if rec.applied = 1 then  
      update eco_attendee  
      set confirmed = 1  
      where id = rec.id;  
  
      commit;  
  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
end schedule_event;
```

good

```
procedure schedule_event(  
  in_event_id in eco_event.id%type,  
  in_schedule_time in eco_event.schedule_time%type)  
is  
begin  
  update eco_event  
  set schedule_time = in_schedule_time, scheduled = 1  
  where id = in_event_id;  
  
  for rec in (select * from eco_attendee where evt_id = in_event_id)  
  loop  
    if rec.applied = 1  
    then  
      update eco_attendee  
      set confirmed = 1  
      where id = rec.id;  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
  
  commit;  
  
end schedule_event;
```

# Potential Performance Issues

#1 – commit every row in a loop

```
procedure schedule_event(  
  in_event_id in eco_event.id%type,  
  in_schedule_time in eco_event.schedule_time%type)  
is  
begin  
  update eco_event  
  set schedule_time = in_schedule_time, scheduled = 1  
  where id = in_event_id;  
  
  for rec in (select * from eco_attendee where evt_id = in_event_id)  
  loop  
    if rec.applied = 1 then  
      update eco_attendee  
      set confirmed = 1  
      where id = rec.id;  
  
      commit;  
  
    end if;  
  end loop;  
end schedule_event;
```

better

```
procedure schedule_event(  
  in_event_id in eco_event.id%type,  
  in_schedule_time in eco_event.schedule_time%type)  
is  
begin  
  update eco_event  
  set schedule_time = in_schedule_time, scheduled = 1  
  where id = in_event_id;  
  
  update eco_attendee  
  set confirmed = 1  
  where evt_id = in_event_id  
  and applied = 1;  
  
  commit;  
  
end schedule_event;
```

# Potential Performance Issues

#2 – execute a single DML inside a loop

```
declare
cursor c1 is
select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,zip,
       zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by
from (...)
where (...);
```

```
tmp_id          number;
tmp_addr1       varchar2(35);
tmp_addr2       varchar2(35);
tmp_city        varchar2(25);
tmp_state_id    number;
tmp_zip         varchar2(5);
tmp_zip4        varchar2(4);
tmp_country_id  number;
tmp_updated_date date;
tmp_updated_by  varchar2(10);
```

```
begin
open c1;
loop
fetch c1 into tmp_id,tmp_addr1,tmp_addr2,tmp_city,tmp_state_id,
             tmp_zip,tmp_zip4,tmp_country_id,tmp_updated_date,tmp_updated_by;
if c1%NOTFOUND then
exit;
end if;
insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS values (
null,tmp_id,'3',tmp_addr1,tmp_addr2,tmp_city,tmp_state_id,tmp_country_id,
tmp_zip,tmp_zip4,tmp_updated_date,tmp_updated_by,sysdate,'MIGRATION'
);
end loop;
commit;
end;
```

better

```
declare
cursor c_addresses is
select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,
       zip,zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by
from (...)
where (...);
```

```
type addresses_t is table of c_addresses%rowtype;
l_addr addresses_t;

begin
open c_addresses;
fetch c_addresses bulk collect into l_addr;
close c_addresses;
```

```
forall indx in 1..l_addr.count
insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS (
id,
<whatever this one is>,
addr1,
addr2,
... )
values (
l_addr(indx).id,
'3',
l_addr(indx).addr1,
l_addr(indx).addr2,
... );
commit;
end;
```



# Potential Performance Issues

#2 – execute a single DML inside a loop

```
declare
cursor c1 is
select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,zip,
       zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by
from (...)
where (...);
```

```
tmp_id          number;
tmp_addr1       varchar2(35);
tmp_addr2       varchar2(35);
tmp_city        varchar2(25);
tmp_state_id    number;
tmp_zip         varchar2(5);
tmp_zip4        varchar2(4);
tmp_country_id  number;
tmp_updated_date date;
tmp_updated_by  varchar2(10);
```

```
begin
open c1;
loop
fetch c1 into tmp_id,tmp_addr1,tmp_addr2,tmp_city,tmp_state_id,
             tmp_zip,tmp_zip4,tmp_country_id,tmp_updated_date,tmp_updated_by;
if c1%NOTFOUND then
exit;
end if;
insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS values (
null,tmp_id,'3',tmp_addr1,tmp_addr2,tmp_city,tmp_state_id,tmp_country_id,
tmp_zip,tmp_zip4,tmp_updated_date,tmp_updated_by,sysdate,'MIGRATION'
);
end loop;
commit;
end;
```

better

```
declare
cursor c_addresses is
select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,
       zip,zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by
from (...)
where (...);
```

```
type addresses_t is table of c_addresses%rowtype;
l_addr addresses_t;
begin
open c_addresses;
fetch c_addresses bulk collect into l_addr;
close c_addresses;
```

forall is not a loop!

```
forall indx in 1..l_addr.count
insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS (
id,
<whatever this one is>,
addr1,
addr2,
... )
values (
l_addr(indx).id,
'3',
l_addr(indx).addr1,
l_addr(indx).addr2,
... );
commit;
end;
```



# Potential Performance Issues

#2 – execute a single DML inside a loop

all or nothing approach

```
begin  
  
  insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS (  
    id,  
    <whatever this one is>,  
    addr1,  
    addr2,  
    ... )  
  select  
    id,  
    '3',  
    addr_1,  
    addr_2,  
    ...  
  from (...)  
  where (...);  
  
  commit;  
  
end;
```

insert what's possible – handle errors afterwards

```
declare  
  cursor c_addresses is  
    select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,  
          zip,zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by  
    from (...)  
    where (...);  
  
  type addresses_t is table of c_addresses%rowtype;  
  l_addr addresses_t;  
begin  
  open c_addresses;  
  fetch c_addresses bulk collect into l_addr;  
  close c_addresses;  
  
  forall indx in 1..l_addr.count  
    insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS ( ... )  
    values ( ... );  
  commit;  
  
end;
```

# Potential Performance Issues

#2 – execute a single DML inside a loop

all or nothing approach

```
begin
  insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS (
    id,
    <whatever this one is>,
    addr1,
    addr2,
    ... )
  select
    id,
    '3',
    addr_1,
    addr_2,
    ...
  from (...)
  where (...);

  commit;

end;
```

insert what's possible – handle errors afterwards

```
declare
  cursor c_addresses is
    select id,addr_1,addr_2,city,state_code_id,
           zip,zip_plus4,country_id,updated_date,updated_by
    from (...)
    where (...);

  type addresses_t is table of c_addresses%rowtype;
  l_addr addresses_t;
begin
  open c_addresses;
  fetch c_addresses bulk collect into l_addr;
  close c_addresses;

  forall indx in 1..l_addr.count SAVE EXCEPTIONS
    insert into LICENSEE_ADDRESS ( ... )
      values ( ... );
  commit;

  exception when std_errs.failure_in_forall then
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line (SQLERRM);
    DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line ('Inserted ' || SQL%ROWCOUNT || ' rows.');
```

```
for indx in 1.. SQL%BULK_EXCEPTIONS.count
loop
  DBMS_OUTPUT.put_line (
    'Error index ' || SQL%BULK_EXCEPTIONS (indx).ERROR_INDEX || ' is - '
    || SQLERRM ( -1 * SQL%BULK_EXCEPTIONS (indx).ERROR_CODE));
end loop;
commit;
end;
```



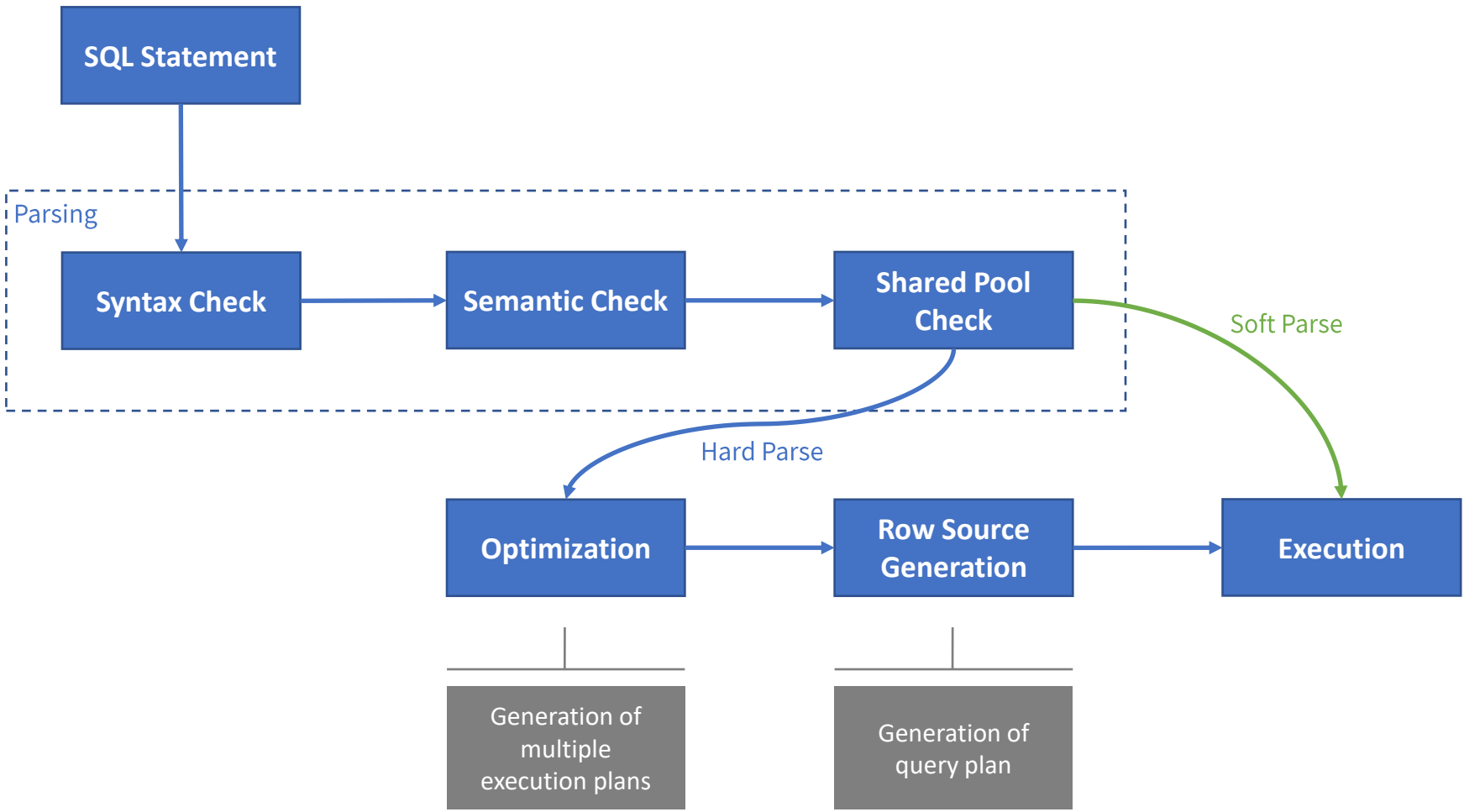
# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

```
FUNCTION has_confirmation_doc (  
    in_bt_id IN drt_businesstransaction.id%type)  
RETURN NUMBER  
AS  
    l_count PLS_INTEGER;  
  
BEGIN  
  
    execute immediate 'SELECT count(*)'           ||chr(10)||  
        ' FROM drt_communication_doc cd '         ||chr(10)||  
        ',drt_fin_document_type fdt '           ||chr(10)||  
        ' WHERE cd.bt_id = ' || in_bt_id         ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.id = cd.fin_type_id'          ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.metavalue = ' || c_metavalue  
    INTO l_count;  
  
    IF l_count = 0 THEN  
        return 0;  
    ELSE  
        return 1;  
    END IF;  
  
END has_confirmation_doc;
```

# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables



# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

```
function get_address(in_id in crm_addresses.id%type)  
  return crm_addresses%rowtype  
is  
  l_sql varchar2(4000 char);  
  l_address crm_addresses%rowtype;  
begin  
  l_sql := 'select * from crm_addresses where id = ' || in_id;  
  execute immediate l_sql into l_address;  
  return l_address;  
end get_address;
```

```
declare  
  l_address crm_addresses%rowtype;  
begin  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 66);  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 73);  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 109);  
end;
```

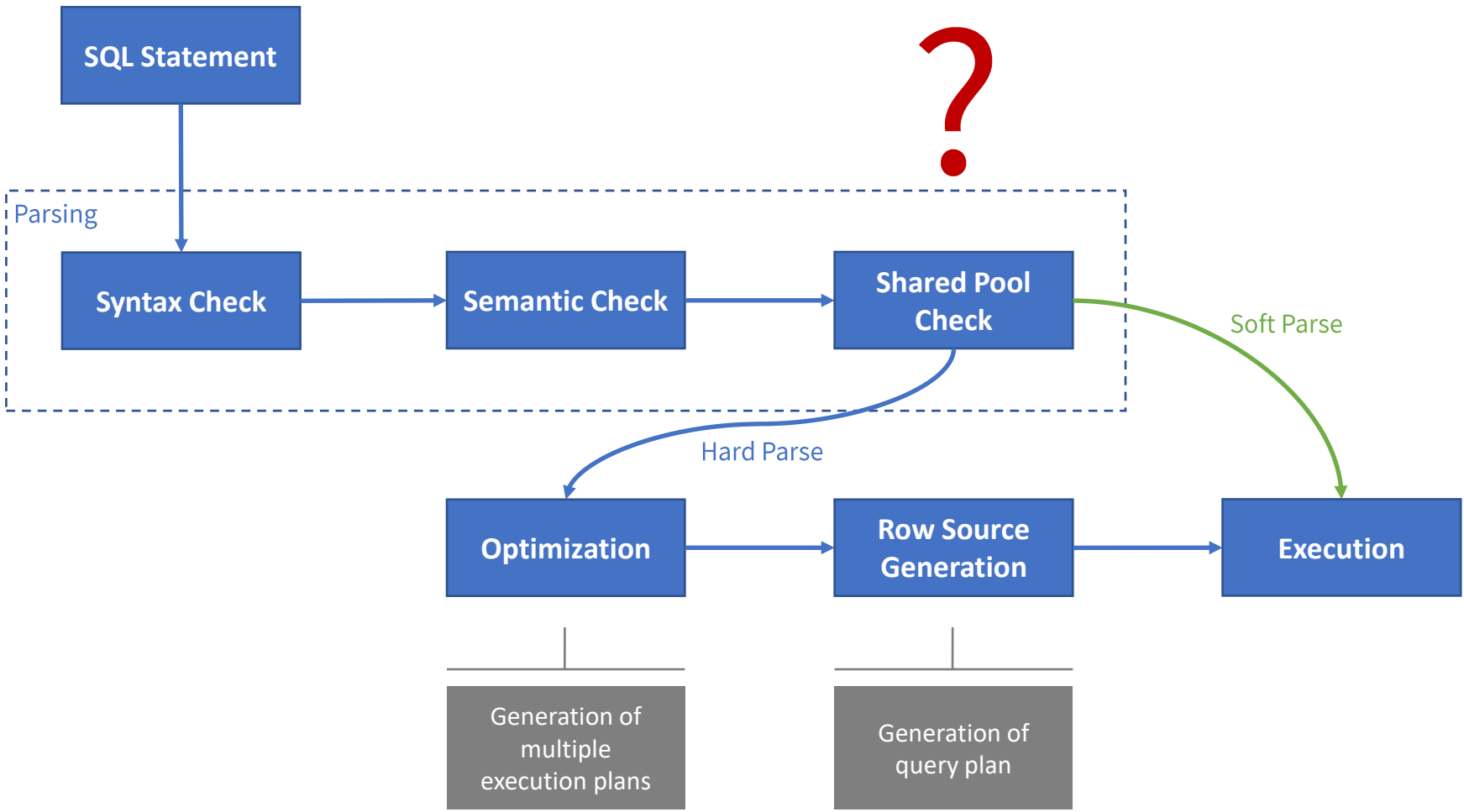
'select \* from crm\_addresses where id = 66'

'select \* from crm\_addresses where id = 73'

'select \* from crm\_addresses where id = 109'

# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

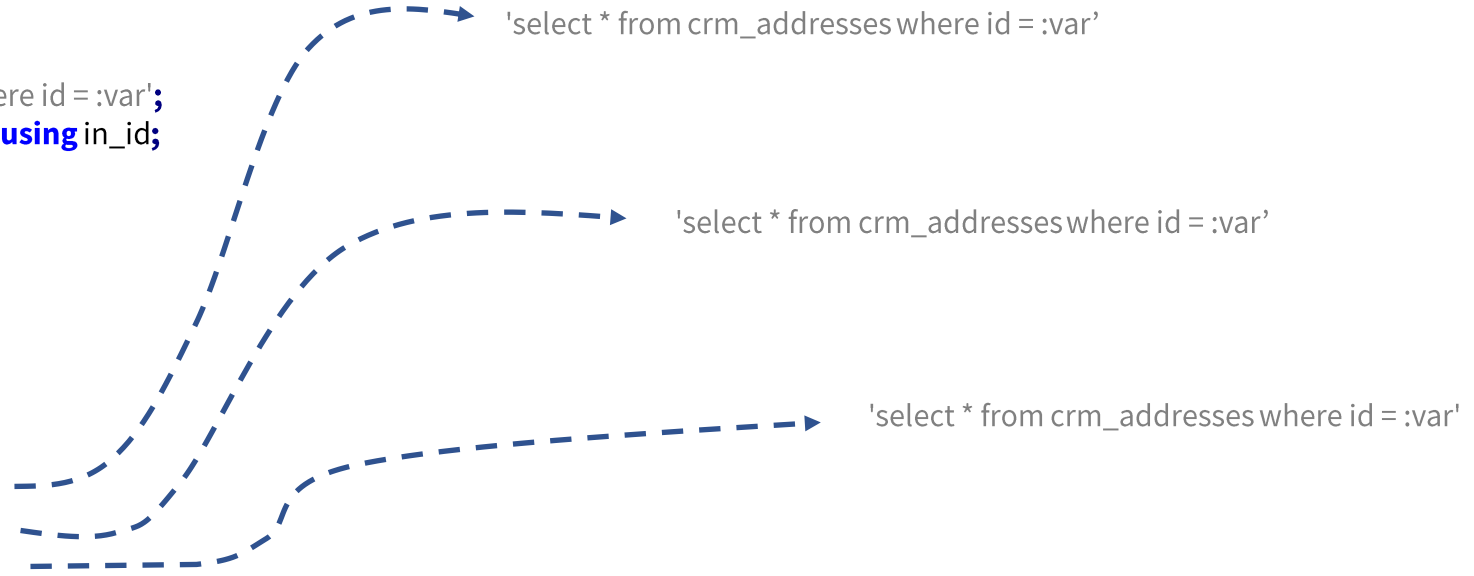


# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

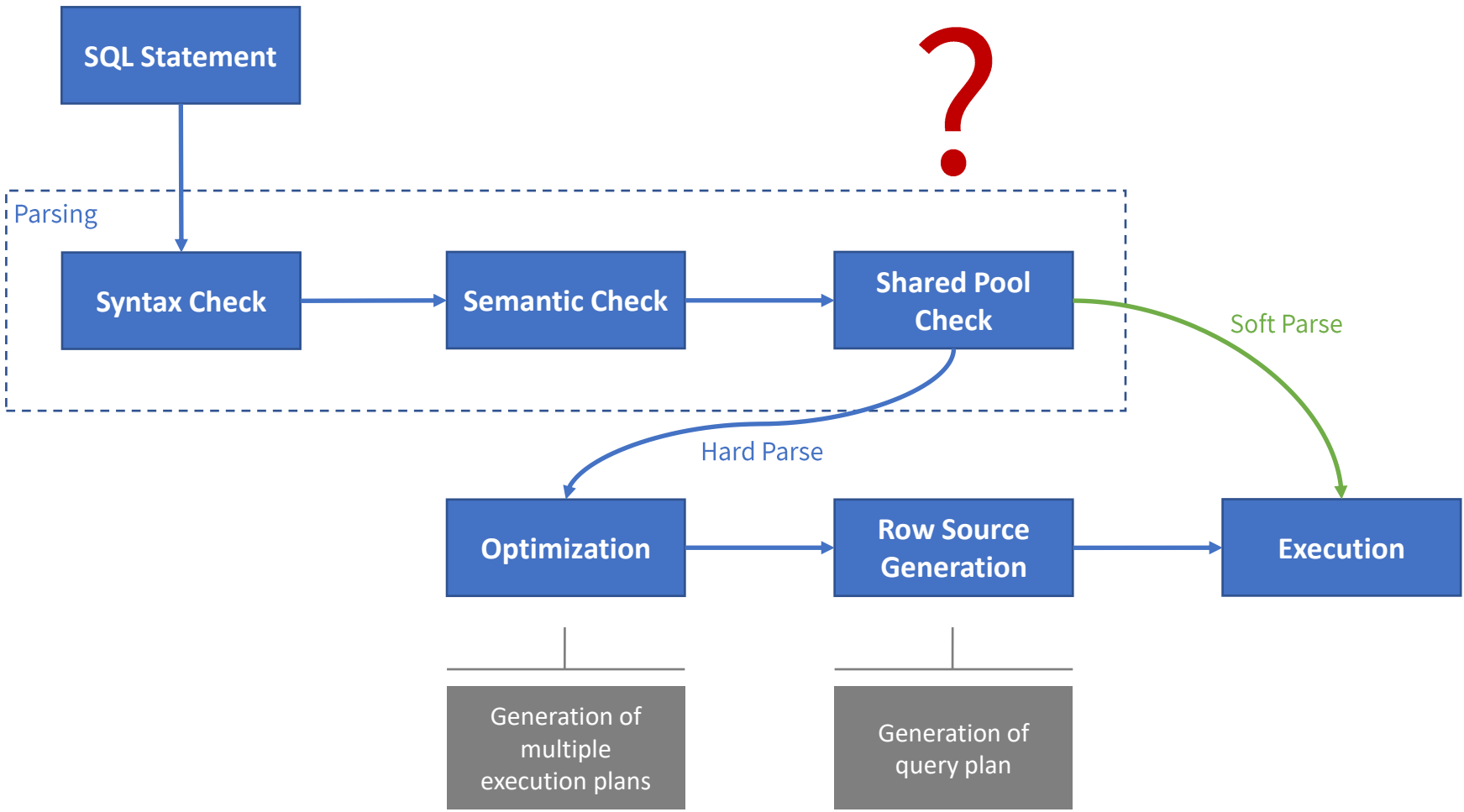
```
function get_address(in_id in crm_addresses.id%type)  
  return crm_addresses%rowtype  
is  
  l_sql varchar2(4000 char);  
  l_address crm_addresses%rowtype;  
begin  
  l_sql := 'select * from crm_addresses where id = :var';  
  execute immediate l_sql into l_address using in_id;  
  return l_address;  
end get_address;
```

```
declare  
  l_address crm_addresses%rowtype;  
begin  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 66);  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 73);  
  l_address := get_address(in_id => 109);  
end;
```



# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables



# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

```
FUNCTION has_confirmation_doc(  
    in_bt_id IN drt_businesstransaction.id%type)  
RETURN NUMBER  
AS  
    l_count PLS_INTEGER;  
  
BEGIN  
  
    execute immediate 'SELECT count(*)'           ||chr(10)||  
        ' FROM drt_communication_doc cd'         ||chr(10)||  
        ' ,drt_fin_document_type fdt'           ||chr(10)||  
        ' WHERE cd.bt_id = ' || in_bt_id         ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.id = cd.fin_type_id'          ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.metavalue = ' || c_metavalue  
    INTO l_count;  
  
    IF l_count = 0 THEN  
        return 0;  
    ELSE  
        return 1;  
    END IF;  
  
END has_confirmation_doc;
```

good

```
FUNCTION has_confirmation_doc(  
    in_bt_id IN drt_businesstransaction.id%type)  
RETURN NUMBER  
AS  
    l_count PLS_INTEGER;  
  
BEGIN  
  
    execute immediate 'SELECT count(*)'           ||chr(10)||  
        ' FORM drt_communication_doc cd'         ||chr(10)||  
        ' ,drt_fin_document_type fdt'           ||chr(10)||  
        ' WHERE cd.bt_id = :var1'               ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.id = cd.fin_type_id'          ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.metavalue = :var2'  
    INTO l_count using in_bt_id, c_metavalue;  
  
    IF l_count = 0 THEN  
        return 0;  
    ELSE  
        return 1;  
    END IF;  
  
END has_confirmation_doc;
```



# Potential Performance Issues

#3 – dynamic sql without bind variables

```
FUNCTION has_confirmation_doc(  
    in_bt_id IN drt_businesstransaction.id%type)  
RETURN NUMBER  
AS  
    l_count PLS_INTEGER;  
  
BEGIN  
  
    execute immediate 'SELECT count(*)' ||chr(10)||  
        ' FROM drt_communication_doc cd ' ||chr(10)||  
        ' ,drt_fin_document_type fdt ' ||chr(10)||  
        ' WHERE cd.bt_id = ' || in_bt_id ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.id = cd.fin_type_id ' ||chr(10)||  
        ' AND fdt.metavalue = ' || c_metavalue ||  
    INTO l_count;  
  
    IF l_count = 0 THEN  
        return 0;  
    ELSE  
        return 1;  
    END IF;  
  
END has_confirmation_doc;
```

better

```
FUNCTION has_confirmation_doc(  
    in_bt_id IN drt_businesstransaction.id%type)  
RETURN NUMBER  
AS  
    l_count PLS_INTEGER;  
  
BEGIN  
  
    SELECT count(*)  
    INTO l_count  
    FROM drt_communication_doc cd  
        ,drt_fin_document_type fdt  
    WHERE cd.bt_id = in_bt_id  
    AND fdt.id = cd.fin_type_id  
    AND fdt.metavalue = c_metavalue;  
  
    IF l_count = 0 THEN  
        return 0;  
    ELSE  
        return 1;  
    END IF;  
  
END has_confirmation_doc;
```

# Potential Performance Issues



do not commit each and every row in a loop



try using SQL instead of PL/SQL



use bulk binding where possible instead of DML within a loop



with dynamic SQL always use bind variables (also for security reasons)



# PL/SQL and APEX



# PL/SQL and APEX

#1 – pl/sql logic in pages, processes, ...

The screenshot displays the Oracle APEX interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'APEX', 'App Builder', 'SQL Workshop', 'Team Development', and 'Gallery'. The user profile 'mbecker' is visible in the top right. The main area is a 'Code Editor - PL/SQL Code' window. The code editor contains the following PL/SQL code:

```
1  begin
2      if :P2_ID_MERK is null then
3          -- do something
4          null;
5      elsif :P2_ID_MERK = 1 then
6          -- do different things
7          null;
8      else
9          if :P2_USR_CUST = :APP_USER then
10             -- do completely other thing
11             null;
12         else
13             -- do this, if nothing else was done
14             null;
15         end if;
16     end if;
17 end;
```

To the right of the code editor is a 'Process' configuration panel. It includes a search filter, an 'Identification' section with fields for Name ('Process something'), Type ('Execute Code'), and Editable Region ('- Select -'). The 'Source' section is checked and shows Location ('Local Database') and Language ('PL/SQL'). A 'PL/SQL Code' section is highlighted with a yellow border and contains a preview of the code from the editor. The 'Execution Options' section at the bottom shows Sequence (20), Point ('Processing'), and Run Process ('Once Per Page Visit (default)').

# PL/SQL and APEX

#1 – pl/sql logic in pages, processes, ...

```
create or replace package body pkg_good_plsql
is
  procedure do_something(
    in_id_merk in number
    ,in_issue in varchar2
    ,in_usr_cust in varchar2
    ,in_app_user in varchar2)
  is
  begin
    if in_id_merk is null then
      -- do something
      null;
    elsif in_id_merk = 1 then
      -- do different things
      null;
    else
      if in_usr_cust = in_app_user then
        -- do completely other thing
        null;
      else
        -- do this, if nothing else was done
        null;
      end if;
    end if;
  end do_something;
end pkg_good_plsql;
```

# PL/SQL and APEX

#1 – pl/sql logic in pages, processes, ...

The screenshot displays the Oracle APEX Page Designer interface. The main window shows a process configuration for a process named "Process something better". The process type is "Execute Code" and it is located in the "Local Database". The language is set to "PL/SQL". The process is configured to run "Once Per Page Visit (default)".

The "Code Editor - PL/SQL Code" window is open, showing the following PL/SQL code:

```
1 begin
2     pkg_bad_plsql.do_something(
3         in_id_merk => :P2_ID_MERK,
4         in_issue   => :P2_ISSUE,
5         in_usr_cust => :P2_USR_CUST,
6         in_app_user => :APP_USER
7     );
8 end;
```

The "Process" configuration panel on the right includes the following sections:

- Identification**
  - Name: Process something better
  - Type: Execute Code
  - Editable Region: - Select -
- Source**
  - Location: Local Database
  - Language: PL/SQL
- PL/SQL Code** (highlighted with a yellow border)
  - begin
  - pkg\_bad\_plsql.do\_something(
  - in\_id\_merk => :P2\_ID\_MERK,
  - in\_issue => :P2\_ISSUE,
  - in\_usr\_cust => :P2\_USR\_CUST,
  - in\_app\_user => :APP\_USER
  - );
  - end;
- Execution Options**
  - Sequence: 30
  - Point: Processing
  - Run Process: Once Per Page Visit (default)
- Success Message**
  - Success Message: (empty)

The interface also shows the "Regions", "Items", and "Buttons" tabs at the bottom, and the "Cancel" and "OK" buttons at the bottom of the code editor window.

# PL/SQL and APEX

#2 – using v() to get page item values in a pl/sql program

The screenshot displays the Oracle APEX Page Designer interface. The main window is titled "Code Editor - PL/SQL Code" and contains the following code:

```
1 begin
2   pkg_bad_plsql.save_cm_2_inst;
3 end;
```

Below the code editor are "Cancel" and "OK" buttons. To the right, the "Process" configuration panel is visible, showing the following settings:

- Identification:**
  - Name: Add something
  - Type: Execute Code
  - Editable Region: Add something
- Source:**
  - Location: Local Database
  - Language: PL/SQL
  - PL/SQL Code: 

```
begin
  pkg_bad_plsql.save_cm_2_inst;
end;
```
- Execution Options:**
  - Sequence: 10
  - Point: Processing
  - Run Process: Once Per Page Visit (default)
- Success Message:**
  - Success Message: (empty)
- Error:** (empty)



# PL/SQL and APEX

#2 – using v() to get page item values in a pl/sql program

The image shows the Oracle APEX SQL Workshop interface. On the left, a PL/SQL procedure named `save_cm_2_inst` is defined. It uses several variables to capture page item values and inserts them into a table. On the right, the configuration for this procedure is shown in the Process editor, including its name, type, location, and execution options.

```
PROCEDURE save_cm_2_inst
IS
  lc_usr      VARCHAR2(20)      := v('F_USER');
  ln_id       NUMBER            := nv('P2_ID_MERK');
  ln_copy     NUMBER            := nv('P2_COPY_FLAG');
  lc_komment  VARCHAR2(500)     := v('P2_KOMMENT');
  lc_cust    VARCHAR2(20)      := v('P2_USR_CUST');
  lc_depu    VARCHAR2(20)      := v('P2_USR_DEPU');
  lc_issue    VARCHAR2(100)     := v('P2_ISSUE');
  lc_pmt     VARCHAR2(30)      := v('P2_PMT');
  lc_txt1    VARCHAR2(500)     := v('P2_TXT1');

  (...)

BEGIN
  ln_status := get_status_wert('AV');
  INSERT INTO DP_CM_MASTER(
    ID_TYPE, ID_SITE, ID_LOC,
    USR_APPL, USR_CUST, USR_DEPU,
    (...)
  )
  VALUES(
    ln_type, ln_site, ln_loc,
    UPPER(lc_usr), lc_cust, lc_depu,
    (...)
  )
  RETURNING ID INTO ln_id_neu;

  (...)

END;
```

**Process Configuration:**

- Identification:** Name: Add something, Type: Execute Code, Editable Region: Add something
- Source:** Location: Local Database, Language: PL/SQL
- PL/SQL Code:** begin pkg\_bad\_plsql.save\_cm\_2\_inst; end;
- Execution Options:** Sequence: 10, Point: Processing, Run Process: Once Per Page Visit (default)
- Success Message:** (empty)
- Error:** (empty)

# PL/SQL and APEX

#2 – using v() to get page item values in a pl/sql program

```
PROCEDURE save_cm_2_inst(  
    in_usr      IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_id       IN  NUMBER,  
    in_copy     IN  NUMBER,  
    in_komment  IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_cust     IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_depu     IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_issue    IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_pmt      IN  VARCHAR2,  
    in_txt1     IN  VARCHAR2,  
    (...)        
)  
IS  
    (...)  
BEGIN  
    INSERT INTO DP_CM_MASTER(  
        ID_TYPE, ID_SITE, ID_LOC,  
        USR_APPL, USR_CUST, USR_DEPU,  
        (...)  
    VALUES(  
        ln_type, ln_site, ln_loc,  
        UPPER(in_usr), in_cust, in_depu,  
        (...)  
    RETURNING ID INTO ln_id_neu;  
  
    (...)  
  
END save_cm_2_inst;
```

# PL/SQL and APEX

#2 – using v() to get page item values in a pl/sql program

The screenshot displays the Oracle APEX Page Designer interface. The main window is titled "Code Editor - PL/SQL Code" and contains the following PL/SQL code:

```
1 begin
2   pkg_bad_plsql.save_cm_2_inst(
3     in_usr      => :APP_USER,
4     in_id       => :P2_ID_MERK,
5     in_copy     => :P2_COPY_FLAG,
6     in_komment  => :P2_KOMMENT,
7     in_cust     => :P2_USR_CUST,
8     in_depu     => :P2_USR_DEPU,
9     in_issue    => :P2_ISSUE,
10    in_pmt      => :P2_PMT,
11    in_txt1     => :P2_TXT1);
12 end;
```

The right-hand panel shows the configuration for a process named "Add something good". The configuration includes:

- Identification:** Name: Add something good; Type: Execute Code; Editable Region: Add something.
- Source:** Location: Local Database; Language: PL/SQL.
- PL/SQL Code:** A preview of the code from the editor, enclosed in a yellow box.
- Execution Options:** Sequence: 20; Point: Processing; Run Process: Once Per Page Visit (default).
- Success Message:** (Empty field)

At the bottom of the code editor, there are "Cancel" and "OK" buttons.

# PL/SQL and APEX

#3 – set items using set\_session\_state in a pl/sql program

```
PROCEDURE sel_cm_17_one
IS
    lc_status  VARCHAR2(50);
    lc_issue   VARCHAR2(120);
    ln_type    NUMBER;
    lc_files   VARCHAR2(60);
BEGIN
    -- do some stuff here

    -- then select some data
    SELECT (...) INTO lc_status, lc_issue (...) FROM (...) WHERE (...);

    -- and then ...
    htmldb_util.SET_SESSION_STATE('P17_CM_STATUS', lc_status);
    htmldb_util.SET_SESSION_STATE('P17_ISSUE_TEXT', lc_issue);
    htmldb_util.SET_SESSION_STATE('P17_TYPE', ln_type);
    htmldb_util.SET_SESSION_STATE('P17_FILE_BASE', lc_files);

END sel_cm_17_one;
```

## Better:

- ✓ use views to select data ...
- ✓ use table functions to select data ...
- ✓ use return values to get data ...
- ✓ use out parameters to get data ...
- ✓ use complex types as return values ...
  
- ✓ ... and set your items using these values!

# PL/SQL and APEX



Do not write PL/SQL logic anywhere in APEX.  
Always write PL/SQL code in the database, use PL/SQL packages. Just call the procedures or functions in APEX.



In your PL/SQL code do not grab the parameters from almost everywhere using v().



Do not set almost every APEX item in your PL/SQL code using `set_session_state()`. This PL/SQL code is not independent/needs the particular frontend application to run. The caller might not know, what will happen. The code is not even testable!



Always use parameter lists and pass the item values to the procedure/function (interface concept). Use return values or OUT parameters to set items.



## Maik Becker

✉ maik.becker@triology.de

✂ @beckerman\_maik

👤 Business Unit Manager @TRIOLOGY

💡 > 20 years of experience in software development

🗄 > 10 years of experience with Oracle DB and APEX

♠️ Oracle ACE Associate



## Alexandra Welzel

✉ alexandra.welzel@triology.de

✂ @alexandrawelzel

👤 Data Consultant @TRIOLOGY

👁️ focused on Oracle DB and Oracle APEX

🗄 6 years of experience in database development

❤️ Love Oracle ā'pěks